

Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

May 1992

Programs Report Commitment and Cooperation

By Rev. Kittredge Cherry

Commitment, a cooperative spirit and international consciousness were expressed when UFMCC programmers met with General Council in March.

Several needs were identified during a discussion of programs overall: leadership training for programmers, more program staff, processes to accommodate UFMCC's increasingly global status, and new means to identify program needs and assess how they are being met. Programmers agreed to spend a day meeting as a group before the next General Council meeting in October.

Each program also presented an individual report. The following are highlights:

The Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee (CCCC) made recommendations regarding equivalency, dual credentialing, Ministry of Reconciliation and other matters. The General Council moved to approve the following addition to the Clergy Manual at various locations, as recommended by CCCC for immediate implementation: "Waiver of credentials requirements or procedures for applicants from WCE areas may be granted by the CCCC upon request from the Board of WCE."

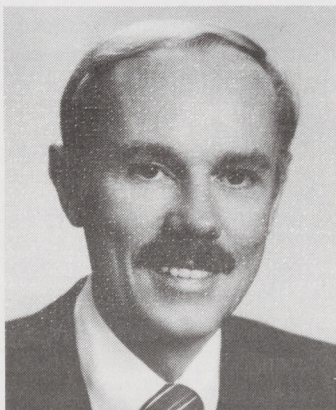
World Church Extension (WCE) income is up 78 percent because there is now a fulltime Field Director for Global Outreach, Rev. Lou Kavar. "People in WCE areas are getting more involved in the denomination," reported Rev. Elder Jean White, executive secretary. WCE has been challenged by the need for translation and an appropriate process for clergy credentialing, she said. She reported UFMCC's progress in Paris, France and Warsaw, Poland. Trips are planned for Rev. White and a medical doctor to visit Nigeria and for Rev. Tomas Garcia to visit Nicaragua.

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Rev. Candace Shultis reports on CCCC at the March General Council meeting.

Elder Mank Leaves Legacy of Lay Empowerment



Elder Michael Mank

Elder Michael Mank, who served from 1981-87 as UFMCC's first lay elder and first Canadian-born elder, died in San Francisco, CA, on Easter night, April 19, of complications due to AIDS.

A memorial service was held at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in San Francisco, CA, April 25.

A professional school teacher, Elder Mank was instrumental in the 1970s in defeating the Briggs Initiative, which would have prevented gay men and

lesbians from teaching in California public schools. Rev. Elder Troy Perry described Elder Mank's efforts in his book *Don't Be Afraid Anymore*. One highlight reads, "When the *San Mateo Times* endorsed Briggs' initiative, Michael was enraged. Ignoring personal danger, the slender, blond school teacher wrote the newspaper an angry letter which he and all other teachers in his school were brave enough to sign."

Elder Mank was also well known for his musical gifts. He

authored numerous hymns, including "I'm Not Afraid Anymore." This hymn was inspired by a General Conference sermon that Rev. Elder Troy Perry preached on the theme "I'm Not Afraid Anymore," and introduced at General Conference III. He served as organist at MCC San Francisco for years and played the organ at a service that UFMCC sponsored for the National Council of Churches (USA) in San Francisco in 1983. Elder Mank was

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European North Sea District Offers "Eurovision"

"A monumental year" for the European North Sea District (ENSD) is reported in the first issue of the district's newsletter, *Eurovision*.

"We will be having our first district conference in continental Europe — Hamburg — and our founder Rev. Troy Perry will be there," District Coordinator Hong Tan writes in the newsletter. "It will be a major change for us to face; how we can increasingly become more aware and act on our 'Europeanness'."

Another example of how the ENSD is crossing national boundaries is the ENSD Women's Secretariat, which will have its first retreat in Dublin, Ireland, May 1-4. Rev. Tan described this as "a real lesson in supporting the women, especially in our Dublin church, across land boundaries."

Rev. Tan noted that local ENSD churches are getting more involved in community action than ever before. "Europride is happening in many places," he said. □

General Conference in Australia: What's The Cost?

The International Concerns, Research and Development (ICRD) Division is charged as part of its task to address issues of national and international concerns and within that the building and fostering of international consciousness. General Council has voted to recommend that the 1997 General Conference be in Australia and has mandated ICRD to begin designing a comprehensive, strategic plan to fulfill this goal. As part of this process they have asked questions concerning the viability of having a General Conference in Australia. They are presenting these questions and answers here. ICRD would like to encourage further dialogue in this process. If you have any comments or questions about issues not addressed in those below, please contact ICRD through the Fellowship offices by Aug. 31.

Questions and answers about General Conference in Australia will be a regular feature in *Keeping in Touch* over the next few months.

What will plane fares be like?

Depending on where you come from (The Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa or Australia itself) it could cost up to \$1,000 more, or \$1,000 less than you would normally spend for Conference. (This means saving an extra 85 cents per day (US) for the next four years.) Fares will be lower as conference will be occurring during Australia's winter season.

Will accommodations cost more and is the quality the same as at previous conferences?

Accommodation rates are comparable and there are no hidden costs. All hotels are three-five-star facilities.

What will be my living expenses?

Living expenses could be up to 25% less, because of exchange rates, than would be incurred if the conference was held in the states. There are no tips, gratuities or sales tax in Australia.

How long will it take to travel to Australia?

Depending on where you are travelling from (New Zealand, the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa) it could take 3-25 hours each way. Remember time changes and jet lag will add some extra time.

What travel documentation will I need?

Travellers from outside Australia will need:

i) a valid passport

ii) a valid visa from an Australian Embassy/Consulate in your country of origin. (This may be obtained by mail). □

Mailing Methods Studied

Research about various mailing methods has led to a decision to continue the present system for mailing *Keeping in Touch* and other UFMCC publications.

A non-binding resolution passed at General Conference in 1991 called for bulk mailing to be used. The resolution was referred to Mr. Ravi Verma, director of administration, who reported on his findings to the General Council in March.

"The Post Office in Los Angeles informs us that it would take anywhere from four to six weeks for mail to reach different parts of the U.S.," Mr. Verma reported. "In addition, if the address is incorrect the mail is not returned to us. If we want it returned it would cost the equivalent of a first-class postage. Bulk mailing out of the U.S. would take a month or more for delivery. Lastly it increases the staff time required to sort and bundle bulk mail." □

PLAY Chapter Formed

PLAY (People of Leather Among You) began as an informal group at General Conference XV in 1991. The first local chapter has been formed at MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with 28 members to date.

The group will focus on spirituality, socializing and service activities, including repair projects to the church, and the designation of a "PLAY-Room."

During leather festivities in April, PLAY hosted several leather organizations at a service which included a blessing of the motorcycles ceremony.

PLAY Toronto is tentatively planning an international gathering of MCC'ers whose sexuality includes leather in Toronto in late 1993. If you would like further information or can help, contact: Ian Taylor, 59 Cavell Ave., Toronto, ONT Canada M4J 1H5. □



Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

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Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry,
Editor

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Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Programs Report (cont'd from page 1)

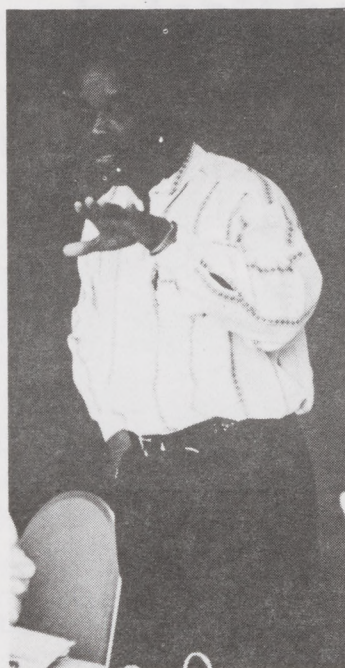
AIDS Ministry is shifting its emphasis from visiting churches to developing resources. Rev. Elder Don Eastman, executive director, reported that a task force is working on long-range planning for AIDS Ministry, and that an office for Rev. Steve Pieters, AIDS Ministry Field Director, has been added to the Fellowship Offices..

Samaritan College reported that its infrastructure has been laid with publication of its 1992-93 catalog and Samaritan/District partnership policies. Rev. Sandra Robinson, president, said Samaritan is exploring the possibility of partnership with other seminaries, leading to accreditation. "We are now at a place where we must incorporate computer technology as soon as possible just to keep up with the current operation," she said.

The Department of Ecumenical Witness & Ministry (EWM) is building an international ecumenical network to prepare for submission of UFMCC's membership application to the World Council of Churches. Rev. Kittredge Cherry, EWM field director, reported that National Ecumenical Officers or Liaisons have accepted appointments in 13 countries. Dialogue is underway with the National Council of Churches (USA) and its British equivalent, Churches Together, as well as in many other places.

The Department of People of Color (DPOC) aims to more clearly assist local churches, to more fully address global issues, and to clarify its relationship to the Division of White People Healing Racism (WPHR), reported Mr. Bernard Barbour, interim executive director. Many successful DPOC/WPHR activities are happening at the district level, he said. Plans are continuing for the DPOC Leadership Conference in Phoenix, AZ, Aug. 28-30.

EXCEL International continues to monitor EXCEL



Mr. Leon Hampton reports on the Board of Pensions.

Teams in the United States, Canada and England. (EXCEL Executive Director) Brenda Blizzard's vision was to have an EXCEL weekend in every U.S. District. This weekend it is fulfilled," reported Tere Schimmel, EXCEL clerk. An EXCEL weekend was also held in Mexico over Easter. EXCEL's budget last year was \$250,000 with registration fees providing a major source of income.

The Commission on Faith, Fellowship & Order (FFO) is developing a theology of ordination. It will meet Aug. 21-24 in Phoenix, AZ. Rev. Steve Torrence, chair, reported that FFO requires restructuring. New methods for choosing representatives and the need for increased funding were discussed.

The Commission on the Laity (COL) has found that training for lay pastoral leaders is the main lay issue in UFMCC today, reported Ms. JoNee Shelton, chair. "Twenty-seven percent of our churches are run by lay leadership," she said. "Willingness can only stretch so far. They need some education and tools to take care of themselves as well as their congregations."

Arabic Introduced by MCC in Bournemouth

Bilingual communication in English and Arabic is being introduced by MCC Bournemouth, United Kingdom.

A children's bible group is being launched by the church. "This will be bilingual to help both our Arabic and English children understand each other and grow together in our mixed cultures," reported *Eurovision*, the newsletter of the European North Sea District.

In addition, the church is starting an English-Arabic house group in Southbourne. Nearly 20 people are now meeting regularly in the Bournemouth area for study and worship as part of the church's ongoing effort to teach about God's word. The bilingual group is one of three new groups that are holding their first meetings after Easter. □

Conferences Draw Big Registration

Registrations for the UFMCC Leadership and People of Color Conferences are higher for this date than previous conferences.

In mid-April, with the conferences still four months away, 77 people had registered for the Leadership Conference and 36 for the People of Color Conference.

The Leadership Conference featuring Lyle Schaller will be held Aug. 25-27, and the People of Color Conference featuring Bishop Leontine Kelly will be held Aug. 28-30. Both conferences will take place in Phoenix, AZ.

More information is available from UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. □

What A Fellowship

Jean Gralley

THE SAMARITAN CATALOG

CHECK OUT THIS CHIC, NON-ALCOHOLIC COCKTAIL PARTY OF THE FUTURE:

HER THEOLOGY IS SO BOLD, SO CUTTING-EDGE, SO TRULY BREATHE-TAKING.

OH? SAMARITAN, I SUPPOSE.

AU CONTRAIRE. MOODY.

TOO HORRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE? IT COULD HAPPEN! SEND YOUR SUPPORT TODAY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

S A M A R I T A N .

HELP PRINT THE CATALOG- IT'S IMPORTANT! *John King*

The Women's Secretariat is continuing to compile, report and analyze the results of its needs assessment survey. "We want to reach out more beyond the U.S.," said Rev. Coni Staff, chair. The Secretariat is encouraging development of district secretariats. Women's retreats are planned by some districts, including the European North Sea District.

The Board of Pensions

reported steady growth and stability in the administration of trust assets. Mr. Leon Hampton, president, plans to distribute pension plan information to all clergy. "I want by the year 2000 to have a competitive pension plan that is not an embarrassment to UFMCC. It's going to be an integral part of why people want to minister in UFMCC," he said. □

Church Growth Weekend Hosted

By Rev. Steve Carson

"In spite of our great theological diversity, we have much in common in terms of understanding the dynamics of church growth." With these words, Rev. Arlene Ackerman joined Rev. Brent Hawkes in welcoming participants to a three-day Church Development Workshop for Church Leaders held Feb. 7-9 in San Francisco, CA.

Sponsored by MCC San Francisco as part of its outreach to other MCC's in the Northwest District, this event drew some 35 people from eight churches, from Sacramento to San Jose, from Modesto to Hayward, from Guerneville to Hawaii. For a number of years, the congregation of MCC-SF has devoted 1% of its annual income to assist other churches in the district. This year, instead of offering support to individual churches, the idea was to host an event that would benefit a number of churches, bringing in and sharing resources that no single smaller church could afford.

Participants came together to explore many questions: What keeps a church small or medium sized? What helps a church grow? How do you involve new people in the life of the church? How do you develop leadership talent? How can you provide for volunteers? What is the role of the pastor, the staff, and the board of directors in church development?

Two of our denomination's leaders in the church growth movement were invited as resource specialists. From Canada came Rev. Brent Hawkes, pastor of MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Since 1977, when he became pastor, the congregation has grown nearly ten-fold, becoming one of the largest MCC's in the world. Rev. Hawkes is a student of church growth and has lectured and consulted throughout the U.S. and Canada. Rev. Arlene Ackerman came from Minneapolis, MN,



Church growth is discussed by, from left, Revs. Jim Mitulski, Arlene Ackerman and Brent Hawkes.

where she is former pastor of All God's Children MCC. She now offers her services as a consultant of church growth and development.

The program on Friday was designed for pastors and clergy, with opportunities to meet as senior pastors, staff, and affiliated clergy. Saturday and Sunday were planned for all church leaders and included workshops on Conflict Management, Models for Ministry, Planning for Growth, and the Care and Feeding of Volunteers. Over lunch, Revs. Hawkes and Ackerman were joined by Rev. Jim Mitulski, pastor of MCC-SF, for a panel discussion comparing the experiences of their three churches. Each day's program concluded with worship.

On Sunday, workshop participants shared in worship at MCC-SF, at 9 a.m., in the liturgical style, at 11 a.m. in "mainstream" style, and at 7 p.m. in the evangelical style.

"This weekend offers a model that might be helpful to other MCC's" said Mr. Linton Stables, assistant district coordinator and coordinator for the weekend. "MCC-SF was able to plan an event that offered resources to smaller churches. We invited the two consultants and picked up their expenses for airfare, lodging, stipend, and per diem. We were able to make good use of their time while they were here.

Arlene also visited Diablo Valley MCC in Concord, and Brent spent two days with Russian River MCC in Guerneville. The only other expenses involved a buffet luncheon for participants and some publicity and printing costs. The workshop was able to use our church building here at MCC-SF."

Coming the greatest distance was Rev. Maggie Tanis, pastor of Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha Rainbow of Love MCC in Honolulu, HI. "Having just completed my first six months as pastor, I was interested in church growth from an MCC perspective. I came to learn from the experience of other churches. We are a multicultural congregation, and that brings its own considerations. I appreciated the opportunity to explore church growth as growth in the depth of our Christian experience as well as growth in attendance and programs. This was a valuable opportunity for learning and sharing." □

In Memory

Rev. Ernie Edwards

Rev. Ernie Edwards, clergy on staff at First MCC of Atlanta, GA, died March 29 due to AIDS.

Licensed in 1985, he pastored MCC Mobile, AL, before moving to Atlanta in September 1991. Memorial services were held at both churches.

He was known for his musical and liturgical gifts. He is survived by his spouse, Mr. Thomas Dunham.

Mr. Victor Pass

Mr. Victor Pass, spouse of Rev. Elder Richard Vincent (retired) for 23 years and one of the four founders of MCC Dallas, TX, died April 16.

Rev. Vincent served UFMCC on the Board of Elders from 1973-76. A funeral for Mr. Pass was held at MCC Dallas, TX, April 20.

Mr. William Smith

Mr. William Smith of Lakewood, OH, who held UFMCC clergy credentials from 1983-90, died in March.

Mr. Smith served as pastor of Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, OH, from 1983-88, and as interim pastor of Emmanuel MCC, Cleveland, OH, in 1988.

Transitions

Rev. Robert Finch, currently pastoring at Hope MCC, Daytona Beach, FL, has accepted the pastoral call at MCC of Amarillo, TX.

Upon invitation of the South Central District Committee, Rev. Tyrone Sweeting has accepted the call to plant MCC in the Lafayette, LA, area.

Rev. Charlene Buck's pastoral resignation at Victory Fellowship MCC, Shreveport, LA, was effective March 29.

Rev. Marcie Wexler will serve as part-time interim pastor of Holy Fellowship MCC, London, Ontario, Canada. □

Around The Fellowship

Praises

Whosoever MCC of Brighton and Hove, United Kingdom, is taking an active part in Brighton's Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, May 15-25. **Rev. David Miller**, pastor, reports that this includes holding a memorial service, a pride service and a blessing of relationship for lesbian and gay couples.

Rev. Nancy Horvath, pastor of **Joie de Vivre MCC**, Baton Rouge, LA, and **Ms. Barb Zurn** announce the birth of their son, Zachary Richard Horvath-Zurn, born Dec. 7, 1991.

Rev. Robert Arthur, coordinator of Church Services, was nominated for inclusion in the second edition of *Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archeology*, to be published by the Biblical Archeology Society.

MCC Rockville, MD, celebrated its 10th anniversary March 28-29 with a full weekend of events, beginning with the groundbreaking for its new building and community center. The church kicked off its "Miracle Month" in which it hopes to raise the additional \$25,000 needed for construction. More than \$14,000 was raised that weekend. The church is pastored by **Rev. Ken Ehrke**.

Good Samaritan Parish MCC, Toledo, OH, celebrated its 10th Anniversary April 6. **Rev. Paul Turner** is pastor.

MCC of the Lower Mainland, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada, raised more than \$300 recently by holding a raffle for a "Mountie" teddy bear with all the regalia of a real member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. □

Prayers

Rev. David Farrell, pastor of **MCC San Diego**, CA, suffered a heart attack on March 20 and underwent quadruple bypass surgery on March 25.

Top 20 Tithes - March 1992

1. MCC Dallas, Dallas, TX	US \$	3,983.81
2. Church/Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL		2,947.92
3. MCC Washington, Washington, DC		2,822.62
4. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		2,609.15
5. MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN \$	2,510.35
6. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,299.59
7. First MCC of Kansas, Wichita, KS		2,193.73
8. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,845.90
9. St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,552.24
10. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL		1,374.81
11. MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		1,323.78
12. Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		1,224.73
13. MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		1,146.23
14. Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,042.53
15. Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		921.80
16. MCC New York, New York City, NY		793.75
17. MCC Key West, Key West, FL		753.24
18. MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		680.17
19. MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT		620.18
20. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		619.22

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Rev. Jim Glyer, director of congregational care at **MCC San Francisco**, CA, underwent emergency double bypass surgery on April 7.

Ms. Pat Underwood, who served on UFMCC's first Women's Commission, was diagnosed with colon cancer. A former member of MCC Los Angeles, CA, she lives in Atlanta, GA.

Rev. June Norris' sister, Eunice, died in March while Rev. Norris was visiting. Rev. Norris pastors **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC** in Des Moines, IA. □

Positions Available

Holy Fellowship MCC, London, Ontario, Canada, is looking for a full-time pastor. Applications may be sent to Pastoral Search Committee, Holy Fellowship MCC, Benson Sutter, Clerk, P.O. Box 213, Station B, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 4V8.

All Saints MCC, Atlanta, GA, is accepting applications for the position of pastor. Applicants must be credentialed in UFMCC. This is a full-time funded position. Resumes may be sent to Roy Groves, P.O. Box 2443, Decatur, GA 30033.

River of Life MCC of the Tri-Cities, WA, is seeking to fill its half-time position for pastor. For more information, persons may contact Diane R. Morgan, Pastoral Search Committee, c/o River of Life MCC, P.O. Box 1678, Richland, WA 99352-0059.

MCC of the Hudson Valley, Albany, NY, is seeking a pastor, part-time (\$500 per month to start, plus relocation allowance). For more information contact the Northeast District Coordinator, Rev. Jeff Pulling, 2006 Mill Pond Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074; phone (203) 644-7282.

Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI, is seeking a pastor. For more information, contact Reconciliation MCC, Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1259, 300 Graceland, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. □

Top 20 Per Capita - March 1992

1. MCC East County, Spring Valley, CA	US\$	40.75
2. New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA		34.59
3. Church With A Vision MCC, Longview, TX		28.86
4. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago, IL		27.12
5. MCC Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	CAN\$	24.55
6. MCC of the Desert, Cathedral City, CA		23.35
7. MCC of the Living God, Anchorage, AK		23.32
8. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA		22.24
9. Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA		21.68
10. MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		21.21
11. Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO		20.59
12. MCC Rockville, Rockville, MD		20.28
13. MCC Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara, CA		20.04
14. MCC Hickory, Hickory, NC		20.01
15. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL		19.46
16. MCC Augusta, Augusta, GA		19.15
17. Christ the King MCC, Oklahoma City, OK		18.99
18. MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT		18.93
19. MCC of the Disciples, Washington, DC		18.46
20. MCC Silverlake, Los Angeles, CA		18.43

Men's Programming Grows Throughout UFMCC

With the popularity of Robert Bly's book, *Iron John: A Book About Men*, and in reaction to what has been called a "blitzkrieg against masculinity," there is a newly identified "men's movement" emerging through the United States and other countries. How are churches and programs of the Universal Fellowship responding to the needs men are beginning to express?

"Men and women are different — obviously," states Mr. Nathan Meckley, Samaritan College instructor of the new course, *Men: Examining Sexuality and Spirituality*. "Most people (though certainly not everyone) would agree. That's pretty much where agreement ends! It's in 'how' and, even perhaps, about 'why' those differences exist, that new and exciting reflection and dialogue are happening." This Samaritan College class is presently gender specific — for men only. "For several years women throughout UFMCC have been meeting together to share information and to support each other in safe 'womanspace.' Samaritan is providing an opportunity for men to do the same in an educational context — we can learn from each others' experiences of being men."

Many local MCC's are, also, providing opportunities for men to share and socialize through men-specific programming. For example:

▼ MCC San Francisco, CA, has been a pioneer of MCC men's programming with ongoing activities for the past six years — this June they celebrate their Sixth Annual Men's Retreat. Also, MCC San Francisco sponsors "Men Together," periodic four to six-week sharing groups.

Elder Mank Declared "I'm Not Afraid Anymore"

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also one of two lay people to serve communion at that service.

"Michael Mank was one of the quietest personalities to ever serve on the Board of Elders and yet he had one of the most pronounced legacies," Rev. Perry said.

Rev. Perry spoke with Elder Mank two weeks before his death. "We prayed together. We cried together. And we remembered the past," he said. "Michael told me that he was ready to go home."

Rev. Elder Jean White recalled, "Michael was one of the most deeply spiritual men I have ever met. He had a depth of vision for his life and for the Fellowship during his time in it that was really wonderful. He was very inspired and I also loved Michael as a close, personal friend. I have been in close contact with him until the day he died."

Elder Mank was born in Monckton, New Brunswick, Canada. He earned a Master of Arts degree from Clark University, Worcester, MA, and did graduate study at the University of California at Los Angeles, San Francisco State University and Berkeley.

He was a charter member of MCC San Francisco in 1970, and served there on the board of directors as clerk for six years. He was treasurer of the Northwest District for five years and also served as representative to the Commission on the Laity. He planned the 15th anniversary celebration of MCC churches in the San Francisco Bay area, held in 1985 in the Episcopal Church's Grace Cathedral.

His accomplishments include involvement as chair and member of the Bylaws Committee; Faith, Fellowship and Order; Commission on Government Structures and Systems; Hymnody; and the Commission on the Laity. He coordinated the study group in Eureka/Arcata MCC Humboldt.

Rev. Elder Freda Smith, vice moderator of the Board of Elders,

▼ MCC North London, England, begins men's programming this month with a day trip to France! They also have a suggestion box for topics of discussion for an upcoming "Men's Sharing Group."

▼ MCC Los Angeles, CA, supports men's activities ranging from shopping expeditions to one-day seminars on topics of interest such as "Sexuality and Spirituality," and "Men's Rites and Rituals."

The following MCC's also have programs which specifically target the needs of interests of men: MCC New York, NY; MCC New Haven, CT; MCC Ventura, CA; MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA; Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA; and Harvest MCC, Denton, TX.

There are many successful models of UFMCC men's programming, as these local examples suggest. Specific strategies differ widely — social, educational, outreach, networking. The point is offering something to appeal to everyone. Though diverse, they all seem to share a similar goal: men genuinely supporting one another.

"There is an added benefit," Mr. Meckley comments. "Considering the current self-identified men's movement is overwhelmingly a movement of non-gay, middle-class, English-speaking, white men, the vision and voices of men in UFMCC are critical in the dialogue about what constitutes a healthy male identity." □

also recalled Elder Mank's impact. "From our very earliest beginnings, Michael championed the role of women, minorities and lay leadership within our denomination," she said. "Michael was a true pioneer. He captured the spirit of our Fellowship in his song 'I'm Not Afraid Anymore.'"

The lyrics, which live on after him, end with this fearless declaration:

*That Christ He did not come His love with all to share,
I listened to these words of those who really did not care.
But now I am convinced God has prepared the way
For all who trust in Jesus' word, believing, they shall say:
I'm not afraid anymore! I'm not afraid anymore!
God's message is for all the world, salvation is for
everyone, what's bound on earth is bound in heav'n.
Praise the Lord! I'm not afraid anymore! □*

It's Official: MCC is Appropriate

St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL has passed its first hurdle in the building of its new 500-seat sanctuary. They are in the middle of a National, as well as Jacksonville, Historic District. They therefore had to appear before the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission to obtain a "Certificate of Appropriateness" for the proposed sanctuary. They are the first to apply for such a certificate since it was made a Historic District. They are also the first church in the Historic District to build a new building since 1928. They passed the first hearing with flying colors. They have one more hearing, but the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission was extremely pleased that "the first Certificate of Appropriateness will go to such an appropriate building." When St. Luke's MCC takes in new members on Easter Sunday their membership will exceed 200. □